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history of our knowledge of the Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary formations of this continent." This description consists in part of extracts compiled from the writings of American geologists, and in part of the author's own observations. It forms a valuable synopsis of the subject, and the references to the palæontology will be especially welcome, since it is the only compilation of this work in existence. Such a work deserves especial commendation, since American naturalists are generally precluded from taking it up owing to the pressure of new work. It is to be hoped that Mr. Miller will be able to accomplish for the extinct vertebrates what he has already done for the invertebrates, in his synopsis of the described genera and species. Mr. Miller's views as to the glacial period are very pronounced. He does not find any evidence of the existence of such a period in North America, either in the stratigraphy or the fossils.

ON THE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SKULL IN THE BATRACHIA, Part III, by Wm. Kitchen Parker, F.R.S.¹—This is the latest of Professor Parker's memoirs, which form a series of much value. The study of the morphology of the vertebrate skull has always possessed a high interest, and Professor Parker's contributions have added much to our knowledge of it. The present part refers to the *Anura*, and includes descriptions of numerous species and genera. Of the anatomical work we can speak in terms of high praise. Unfortunately Professor Parker has not been able to learn, from his researches, the true relations of the contents of the order of *Anura*. This is seen in his adherence to the system of Günther, which is, in every respect, worthless; and in his entire ignorance of the work of American naturalists on the subject. In this country the osteology of the *Anura* was understood sixteen years ago, and the classification was then placed upon a positive foundation. Professor Parker's knowledge of the literature is evidently not what it should be. The memoir is illustrated by forty-four beautifully executed plates.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—Notes on the Vertebrata of the Preglacial Forest Bed Series of the East of England. Part IV. Rodentia and Insectivora. By E. T. Newton, F.R.S.

Notes on the Vertebrata of the Pre-glacial Forest Bed Series of East of England, Part V. Proboscidae and Cretacea. By E. T. Newton, F.R.S. 8vo, pp. 8. From the Geological Magazine, June and July, 1881. London, 1881. From the author.

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. 8vo, pp. 34. Washington, 1881.

Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, July 1881. pp. 15. Philadelphia, 1881.

Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Twenty-ninth Meeting, held in Boston, Mass., Aug., 1880. 8vo, pp. 800, plates, cuts. Published by the society, Salem, 1881. From the society.

¹ On the Structure and Development of the Skull in the Batrachia. By WILLIAM KITCHEN PARKER, F.R.S. Part III. 4to, pp. 266, 44 plates. From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. Published by the Society. London, 1881.